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Title of the Invention:

AIR CELL

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S P E C I F I C A T I O N

1. Title of the Invention:

AIR CELL

2. Scope of the Patent Claim:

An air cell comprising an air electrode, an acidic electrolyte consisting of an aqueous solution of a sulfamic acid salt, and a lead cathode.

3. Detailed Description of the Invention

This invention relates to a cell with an air electrode using oxygen as the active material, and it provides an air cell with high voltage, high capacity,

and excellent storage performance by using an aqueous solution of a sulfamic acid salt as the electrolyte and lead as the cathode.

In existing air cells, oxygen is used as the anode active material, zinc is used as the cathode, and a 30-40% aqueous solution of an alkali hydroxide such as sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide saturated with zinc oxide is used as the electrolyte. Also, viscosity is imparted by adding a paste such as CMC and sodium polyacrylate so that the surface of the air electrode is covered with a thick coat in order to prevent deterioration of the oxygen-reducing capacity and to prevent leakage from the air supply hole of the anode can, and in this way the cell size is reduced and sealed.

In existing air cells using an alkaline electrolyte such as potassium hydroxide, a large amount of carbon dioxide as well as oxygen is supplied from the air supply hole during storage or when discharging, the electrolyte is brought in contact with carbon dioxide, the carbon dioxide reacts with the potassium hydroxide in solution, and a large amount of potassium carbonate is produced. Consequently, the alkali concentration of the electrolyte is lowered, the electrical conductivity is reduced, and the discharge and operating voltage is lowered.

Furthermore, an alkaline electrolyte contains an almost saturation amount of zincic acid ions produced by the discharge reaction of zinc, and when a large amount of carbon dioxide is introduced, a large amount of zinc carbonate is produced by reacting with the carbonate ions in solution. The solubility of zincic acid ions in the electrolyte is low, and consequently they are deposited on the zinc surface. As a result, the discharge reaction area is reduced, and the discharge and operating voltage and the discharge capacity are reduced.

As a modification, in the case of large air cells the electrolyte is circulated using a pump, etc., and alkali carbonate is regenerated to new alkali hydroxide using calcium hydroxide. However, this requires large equipment, and presents problems concerning the miniaturization of the cell.

The object of this invention is to obtain an air cell with excellent storage performance and high voltage and capacity using an acidic electrolyte consisting of an aqueous solution of a sulfamic acid salt and lead for the cathode.

An actual example of this invention is described in the following with reference to the diagram.

In Figure 1, (1) is the anode can functioning also as the anode, and an air supply hole (2) is located in the bottom. (3) is an air electrode comprising cobalt phthalocyanine and activated carbon, which is in contact with a separator (4) of a lyophilic semipermeable membrane. (5) is the electrolyte retainer [? — *Tr. Ed.*] containing an acidic electrolyte of a sulfamic acid salt, which is made of a nonwoven cloth or a porous material with an excellent liquid retaining property and acid resistance, and it is placed adjacent to the cathode (6) consisting of zinc powder. (7) is a piece of paper with excellent air permeability and placed adjacent to an air-permeable membrane (8) made of Teflon with numerous pores, which is placed in contact with the air electrode (3), and the other side of (7) is placed adjacent to the bottom of the anode can (1) with its air supply hole (2). (9) is the cathode can which covers the bent opening of the anode can (1) using a gasket (10) to seal the cell. (11) is a sealing material made from a polyvinyl chloride sheet, which is used for sealing the air supply hole (2). The air supply hole (2) in the bottom of the anode can (1) is sealed tightly using a pressure-sensitive adhesive agent (12).

In the case of a cell of this invention, an acidic electrolyte of a sulfamic acid salt is used. Consequently, there is no formation of carbonates due to the large amount of carbon dioxide supplied with oxygen from the air supply hole of the anode can, and there is no deterioration of the electrolyte due to carbonates nor reduction in the discharge and operating voltage of the cell. Also, there are no precipitates of zinc carbonate since no zinc is used, and therefore there is no reduction in the discharge capacity. As a result, an air cell with a high voltage and capacity and excellent storage performance is obtained.

In the cell of this invention, when an aqueous solution of a sulfamic acid salt of pH 1 is used as the electrolyte, the theoretical reduction potential of oxygen is +1.28V with regard to a hydrogen electrode, the oxidation potential of lead is -0.4V, and therefore the theoretical potential difference of the cell is 1.68V, and the operating voltage is about 1.5V due to the polarization by discharging. In the case of an alkaline electrolyte of pH 15, the reduction potential of oxygen is +0.4V, the oxidation potential of zinc is -1.82V, the theoretical potential difference of the cell is 1.72V, and the discharge and operating voltage is about 1.3V due to polarization. The discharge and operating voltage of the cell of this invention is 0.2V higher, and thus an air cell with a higher voltage and capacity corresponding to the said increment is obtained.

A product of this invention (A), i.e., a button-type air cell of an actual example of this invention, 11.5 mm in diameter and 5.2 mm deep using an acidic electrolyte of an aqueous solution of a sulfamic acid salt at pH = 1 and a cathode comprising lead powder, and an existing product (B), i.e., the same type of air cell using an alkaline electrolyte consisting of an aqueous potassium

hydroxide solution and a cathode comprising zinc powder were compared. Ten of each type cell were discharged at a constant current of 1.5 mA at 25°C. The discharge curve obtained is shown in Figure 2, and the discharge capacity is shown in Table 1. Also, 20 product units of this invention (A) and 20 existing product units (B) were stored at 25°C. After six months and 12 months, ten units of each were discharged at a constant current of 1.5 mA at 25°C. The results obtained are also shown in Table 1.

	1.5mA 定電流放電持続時間 (a) (維持率%)		
	(b)(c)貯蔵期間 (b)(d)25°C 6ヶ月 (e) 25°C 12ヶ月		
本発明品 (A) (f)	230時間 (h)	219時間 (95%) (h)	207時間 (90%) (h)
従来品 (B) (g)	230時間 (h)	207時間 (90%) (h)	186時間 (80%) (h)

KEY: (a) discharge time at 1.5 mA constant current (retention rate, %); (b) initial; (c) storage time; (d) six months at 25°C; (e) 12 months at 25°C; (f) product of this invention (A); (g) existing product (B); and (h) hrs.

As shown in Figure 2 and Table 1, the product of this invention (A) has a higher discharge and operating voltage and a superior storage property.

The air cell of this invention has an operating voltage of 1.5V, and therefore it is interchangeable with an alkaline manganese cell, silver oxide cell, nickel zinc cell, etc..

As described above, the air cell of this invention comprising an air electrode, an acidic electrolyte of an aqueous solution of a sulfamic acid salt, and a lead cathode placed in an anode can with an air supply hole and

sealed tightly by a gasket and the cathode can, has a high discharge and operating voltage, and the discharge capacity and storage performance are markedly improved, which is extremely valuable from the industrial standpoint.

#### 4. Brief Description of the Diagram:

Figure 1 is a cross-sectional view of an air cell in accordance with an actual example of this invention, and Figure 2 is a comparison diagram showing discharge curves of the product of this invention (A) and an existing product (B) at a 1.5 mA constant current and 25°C.

(1) . . . anode can; (2) . . . air supply hole; (3) . . . air electrode;  
(5) . . . electrolyte retainer; (6) . . . cathode.

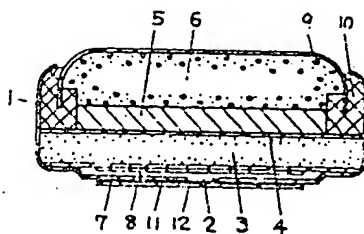


Figure 1.

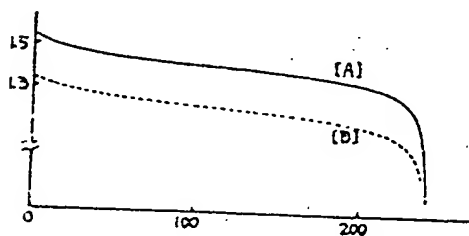


Figure 2.

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51 空気電池

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明 細 書

1. 発明の名称 空気電池

2. 特許請求の範囲

空気極と、スルファミン酸塩水溶液からなる燃料極液と、前記からなる負極体とからなる空気電池。

3. 発明の詳細な説明

本発明は燃料を燃料極とする空気極を有する電池に関し、燃料極にスルファミン酸塩水溶液、負極体に鉛を用いることにより高電圧大電流の空気電池の優れた空気電池を提供するものである。

従来の空気電池は正極が鉛酸に酸化鉛、負極体に亜鉛を用い、電解液は硫酸ソーダ、苛性ソーダ等の30～40%の苛性アルカリ水溶液に酸化鉛を溶解したもので、さらに、PbO<sub>2</sub>、ポリマリン酸ソーダ等の材料で鉛性を与えて、空気極の表面を密着して酸素還元能力が低下しないようにし、また正極部の空気供給孔から漏れしないようにして、電池を小型化し密封していた。

従来の空気電池は電圧が1.2V程度のアルカリ電池

を用い、貯蔵中または放電中に空気供給孔から酸素の他に多量の気体ガスが流入するため、電解液が気体ガスに膨れ、液中の腐蝕がりと共に水素ガスを多量に生成した。このため電解液のアルカリ濃度が低下し電圧低下度が多量、電極の腐食作用も低下せしめた。

さらに、アルカリ電解液に中和の気体反応により生成した亜硫酸イオンを短距離で分解しており、多量の気体ガスが流入すると、液中の気体イオンに反応するため電解液を多量に生成した。中和イオンは電解液に対して高電圧が小さく電極表面に付着し、腐食作用も減少し、このため、電極作用電圧の低下と電極腐蝕の減少等の欠点を生じていた。

この改良として、大電流の空気電池ではアルカリ電解液を低濃度、水酸化カルシウムで電解液のpHを多量に調整して中性に調整していたが、十分な電圧が必要であり、電極を小型化するには十分効果がなかった。

本発明は、スルファミン酸塩水溶液からなる燃料



電解液と密接なる接触面を用いることにより、貯蔵性能の優れた大容量の空気電池を得ることを目的とするものである。

本発明の実施例を図面にもとづいて説明する。

1は正極端子を有する正極板で炭素に空気供給孔2を有している。3は空気極でポリオキサリンアンと活性炭とからなり、親水性の多孔質である無機膜4と接している。5はスルファミン酸塩の酸性電解液を保持している電解液保持層で、保水性、密封性に優れた不織布または多孔体であり、密封からなる負極体6と接している。7は通気性に優れた紙で、多数の微孔を有するアパロンの空気透過膜8を介して空気極3と接しており、他面は空気供給孔2が設けられている正極板1の式部に接している。8は負極板でガラス繊維9を介して正極板1の開口部を封止して電池を封止している。11は空気供給孔2を密封しているポリ塩化ビニルシート12の密封材で、密封性の粘着剤13で正極板1の底部の空気供給孔2を密封している。

本発明電池はスルファミン酸塩の酸性電解液を

(3)

用いているため、正極板の空気供給孔から流入する無機膜の大量の空気による乾燥の発生が全くないから、電解液が乾燥して劣化することなく、電解液の電圧の低下がなく、また密封を用いないから実用季節の応用が利便性から貯蔵容量の減少も起らず、大容量の貯蔵性能の優れた空気電池が得られる。

またさらに、本発明電池の電解液はPHが1であるスルファミン酸塩水溶液を用いると、開放の還元電位は水素電極に対して+1.23V、水の酸化電位は-0.4Vになり、電池の理論電位差は1.63V、放電による分極で大体作動電圧が1.5Vとなる。これはPH15のアラリ電解液での開放還元電位+0.40V、水の酸化電位-1.32Vで電池の理論電位差は1.72V、分極により放電作動電圧が大体1.8Vになるものと比較すると、放電作動電圧が0.2V高くなり、その増加分、大容量の空気電池が得られる。

次に本発明による実施例電池であるPH=1のスルファミン酸塩大容量の酸性電解液と動物の負極

(4)

体を用いた直径115mm、高さ52mmの大きさのボタン型の空気電池である本発明品(A)と、PH=15の苛性ソーダ溶液のアルカリ電解液と動物体の負極体を用いた全く同じ同型空気電池である従来品(B)との各10個を、25℃で1.5mAの定電流で放電し、放電曲線を図2後に放電容量を表1にまとめた。また、本発明品(A)20個と従来品(B)20個を25℃で貯蔵し、6ヶ月目と12ヶ月目に各10個を25℃、1.5mAで定電流で放電し、その放電を表1にまとめた。

表 1

	1.5mA定電流放電持続時間 (放電率%)		
	初 度	貯 蔵 期 間	
		25℃6ヶ月	25℃12ヶ月
本発明品 (A)	230時間	219時間 (95%)	207時間 (90%)
従来品 (B)	230時間	207時間 (90%)	184時間 (80%)

品(B)と表1から本発明品(A)は、放電作動電圧が高く、貯蔵性能も優れていることがわかる。

また、本発明の空気電池は作動電圧が1.5Vであるので、スルファミン酸塩、酸化電位、ニッケル酸電位等と互換性を有するものである。

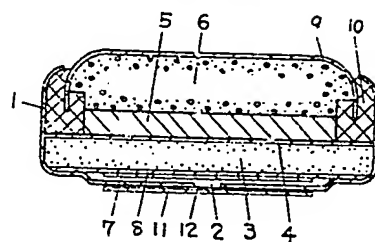
以上のごとく、空気極とスルファミン酸塩水溶液からなる無機膜と密接の負極体とを、空気供給孔を有する正極板に導入し、ガラス繊維と負極板とで封止した本発明の空気電池は、放電作動電圧が高く放電容量も貯蔵性能が大幅に向上するので、その工業的価値は大なるものである。

#### ※ 図面の簡単な説明

図1図は本発明の正極板の空気供給孔の断面図、図2図は本発明品(A)と従来品(B)の25℃1.5mA定電流の放電曲線の比較図である。

- 1 正 極 板
- 2 空気供給孔
- 3 空 気 極
- 4 無機膜保持層
- 5 負 極 体

第 1 図



第 2 図

